

elements, the shifts between Islam, Islamism and the West, between puritanical Islamists masquerading as Muslims and true moderate non Islamist Muslims, will continue to be tectonic and devastating.

In my position of privilege and opportunity, one shared with many Muslims in America, if I do not oppose Islamism, I am failing in my Muslim duty to American society and in failing American society. I profoundly fail as a Muslim. I am reminded of a saying attributed to the Prophet Mohammed by one of his companions who recounted it to an early believer:

“Whoever sees a wrong and is able to put it right with his hand, let him do so; if he can't, then with his tongue, if he can't, then with his heart. That is the bare minimum of faith’.

This, having both hand, tongue, and heart, I am committed to live by and therefore I thank you Chairman King, Ranking Committee Member Congressman Thompson and the distinguished members of the Committee on Homeland Security for enabling me to fulfill the bare minimum of my belief today.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4402) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, today's legislation has more to do with undermining environmental review of mining on public lands than the production of rare earths and other critical minerals, and I will oppose it today.

Specifically, H.R. 4402 would let mining companies operating on public lands set time limits for each part of the environmental review process and then arbitrarily cap total environmental review time at 30 months. The bill then elevates mining over hunting, fishing, grazing, conservation and any other public purpose and places new restrictions on judicial review. Finally, the definition of “strategic and critical minerals” in this legislation is so broad as to encompass virtually every mineral that is or could be mined on public lands—including such common materials as sand, clay and gravel. If the majority was seriously interested in targeting the production of strategic and critical minerals on public lands, we would have adopted the amendment offered by our colleague Rep. PAUL TONKO expressly for that purpose. Instead, the Tonko amendment was defeated on a party line vote and so we are left with the serious defects of the underlying legislation.

Madam Chair, we can responsibly develop our natural resources and protect our environment at the same time. H.R. 4402 ignores that central truth and should be opposed by every member of this body.

HONORING CHARLES M. “SKIP” RUSSELL

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great constituent. Charles “Skip” Russell of Enfield, Connecticut passed away earlier this week and will be interred with Military Honors at St. Patrick King Street Cemetery. Skip was a mentor and friend to many, coaching Little League for over ten years, and serving as the Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 50. An Enfield resident since 1951, Skip began as an employee of Bigelow-Stanford Carpet Company. He later served as Sales Manager with Nutmeg Building Supplies for 35 years until his retirement in 1992.

During World War II, Skip was also proud to serve his country in both the Merchant Marines and the United States Army. For his years of outstanding service, Skip was awarded the World War II Victory Medal. Committed to supporting veterans and their families, he remained a lifelong member of AMVETS.

Even after his retirement, Skip was a dedicated and active participant in local grassroots politics of Enfield, Connecticut. As a member of the Enfield Democratic Committee, Skip contributed enthusiastically to local efforts. He was always the first at Headquarters to volunteer for projects, and he could always be counted on to have a car trunk full of signs and hand cards, and pockets stuffed with stickers and buttons. Skip was an eloquent supporter of Social Security and Medicare at numerous public forums in the Enfield area. His passion and energy for the political process will be fondly remembered by all his fellow campaigners, as well as the many elected officials and candidates who were fortunate enough to meet him.

Skip Russell's legacy is not just that of a devoted father, husband, and servicemen, but also of an engaged and involved citizen in his local community. Skip will be dearly missed by his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchild, and all those in Enfield whom he touched with his years of community service. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss and honoring the life of Skip Russell.

THE EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION ON THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF FORMER PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of Taiwan and a founding member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I would like to bring to your attention an issue of concern to Taiwanese Americans and the people of Taiwan.

The former President of Taiwan, Mr. Chen Shui-Bian, is currently serving a 19-year prison sentence for corruption charges. He has been incarcerated for over 1,200 days thus far. Today, I am inserting into the CONGRES-

SIONAL RECORD a summary report drafted by a three-man medical team led by former professor Joseph Lin, Ph.D., and professors of the University of California at Davis Medical Center, Ken Yoneda, M.D., and Charles Whitcomb, M.D., who visited Mr. Chen Shui-Bian in jail in Taiwan last month in their capacity as private citizens. The report is titled, “The Effects of Incarceration on the Mental and Physical Health of Former President Chen Shui-Bian of Taiwan.” A full transcript of the report is available here: http://www.fapa.org/public/CSB_Report_to_TLHRC_12Jul2012.pdf.

These medical professionals traveled to Taiwan in June 2012 to assess President Chen's physical and mental condition, and to inquire into reports of inhumane living conditions and confinement. The physicians concluded that President Chen's imprisonment conditions are contributing to President Chen's health problems. In their recommendations the report concludes: “Former President Chen Shui-Bian [should] be released from confinement on medical parole based on the above assessments, conclusion and recommendations, and on compelling humanitarian grounds.”

I am entering this report into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and, in light of the conclusions, ask that the distinguished Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission investigate this important case at its earliest convenience.

REPORT TO THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AN ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THE EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION ON THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF FORMER PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

(By U.S. Citizen Medical Team—Joseph Lin, Ph.D., Ken Yoneda, M.D., Charles Whitcomb, M.D.)

July 12, 2012

SUMMARY

Former President CHEN SHUI-BIAN (CSB) has been in and out of detention since November 12, 2008 and incarcerated in Taipei Prison, Taoyuan County since Dec. 2, 2010. On Monday June 11, 2012 a team of three private United States citizens (a Ph.D. team leader, and two medical doctors) evaluated CSB in Taipei Prison with the purpose of assessing his medical health and the conditions of his confinement amidst reports of his failing health and potential human rights violations. They were allowed to interview and examine him for approximately fifty-five minutes, had access to much of his medical records, and interviewed three independent Taiwanese physicians who had seen him as visitors to the prison but who were not a part of his prison appointed medical team. The visit was followed by detailed discussions with the Taiwan Medical Panel which included the three physicians mentioned above.

CSB has been imprisoned for over four years; sometime in late 2011 or early 2012 he began experiencing increasingly more severe and debilitating symptoms, which culminated in his transport to two different hospitals for medical evaluation. He described ongoing episodes of severe paroxysms of dyspnea (difficulty breathing) with no apparent triggers, accompanied by a sensation of choking and feelings of great dread, as if he was going to die. These episodes were at times accompanied by chest tightness, a feeling of congestion not allowing him to take either a deep breath in or out. While the episodes have become perhaps less frequent and less severe since he regularly started taking esomeprazole around mid-

May, 2012 for gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD), esophagitis (inflammation of the esophagus), duodenitis (inflammation of the duodenum) and gastritis (inflammation of the stomach), they continued to be quite debilitating in nature. Even at rest he continued to have a sensation of congestion and the feeling that he could not get a good breath in or out. It is notable that he had never experienced similar episodes prior to his incarceration. As well, he described progressive dyspnea on exertion over the prior 6 months. Previously he could jog approximately 1.5 miles but now he could not walk at a normal pace without getting dyspneic.

Chen is confined to a small cell, approximately 58 square feet that he shares with another inmate, and is allowed to be outside his cell for only one hour a day. Until recently he had been permitted to be outside his cell for only 30 minutes a day. Around May of 20, 2012, it was increased to 60 minutes a day. In contrast, other prisoners are allowed outside of their cells for eight hours a day to work and interact with other prisoners. He stated that his cell is at times cold and damp and at other times hot, humid and damp, having inadequate ventilation and no air conditioning. He sleeps on the floor, which can be cold and damp, and experiences chills despite blankets. He feels depressed, experiencing anger and tearfulness, worries a great deal, has frequent nightmares and feelings of hopelessness that have all worsened with the ailing health of his wife and mother. He denied suicidal ideation, stating the he must fight on for the sake of his family and country. While confined to his cell, he must kneel on the ground to write and consequently suffers from chronic pain in his knees.

Despite good cooperation from the prison officials, extensive consultation with other local physicians, and a thorough review of the available medical records, the three-person team concluded that adequate assessment of CSB's medical condition and his conditions of confinement required further evaluation. They had grave concerns regarding CSB's health and believe that it will continue to deteriorate, should he remain in his present prison confines. Although his evaluations at Taoyuan General Hospital and Chang Gung Memorial Hospital together appear comprehensive and of high quality, his recent hospitalization at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital was limited to around 6 hours and his symptoms remain incompletely explained. His medical evaluation thus remains incomplete. Stress, without a doubt was believed to be a major contributor, if not the major cause of his symptoms, but his symptoms in conjunction with the spirometry (breathing tests) that he was not able to complete satisfactorily, but displayed severely reduced inspiratory and expiratory flows, suggest he may have vocal cord dysfunction (VCD) with severe intermittent vocal cord spasm. This disorder can be very difficult to diagnose and treat and often requires very specialized expertise to accomplish. This problem will likely continue in the presence of his present stressors and will worsen with additional and ongoing stressors. Certainly gastro-esophageal reflux can precipitate and worsen VCD and in his case treatment appeared to have ameliorated, but had not satisfactorily controlled his symptoms. In addition, the bronchiectasis seen on his chest CT, suggests that he may have been chronically aspirating gastric acid into and damaging his airways. Coronary artery disease and structural cardiac disease did not appear to be the cause of his ongoing symptoms, but conditions such as stress cardiomyopathy, evolving pulmonary arterial hypertension and thromboembolic disease are considerations.

His chest x-rays reportedly revealed atelectasis and his bronchoscopy revealed a lesion in his bronchus. Unfortunately, the medical team was unable to personally review his radiographs, bronchoscopy pictures, cardiac catheterization films and echocardiogram to help complete their evaluation.

The individual members (admitted non-experts on international human rights of prisoners) of the medical team all felt that the prison conditions as described to them were unacceptable for the general prison population and they raised concerns regarding the human rights of all prisoners in Taiwan. Furthermore, the team found it deeply disturbing that any prisoner who was this ill, would continually be subjected to these severe conditions. For a former President of Taiwan to be confined under such conditions was considered unimaginable.

The consensus recommendations of the team were that former President CHEN SHUI-BIAN be evaluated at a comprehensive tertiary care center and that the doctors be allowed to fully evaluate him, to review his records in their entirety, to speak to his previous treating physicians and to have access to directly view any and all of his radiographs, spirometry, bronchoscopy pictures, cardiac catheterization films and echocardiogram. In addition, it was concluded that the harsh conditions of his confinement were an ongoing source of great emotional and physical stress and must be significantly improved otherwise his symptoms and his health will continue to deteriorate. As physicians without specific expertise in psychiatry or psychology they could not determine whether CSB met the criteria for an adjustment disorder, major depression or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but voiced concern that he could develop such problems if his conditions of confinement remained unchanged. They could not offer an expert opinion as to how much his conditions needed to be improved to avoid psychological damage or whether at this point it was at all preventable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After careful consideration, the team makes the following recommendations:

1. That former President CHEN SHUI-BIAN (CSB) be transferred to a tertiary care medical facility where he could receive subspecialty evaluation care.
2. That consideration be given to the request by CSB and his family that he be evaluated at National Taiwan University Hospital given his familiarity with and trust in the facility where he had previously been evaluated during his Presidency.
3. That he be evaluated by a team of physicians consisting of at minimum the following:
 - a. A physician with specific expertise in vocal cord dysfunction.
 - b. A pulmonologist.
 - c. A cardiologist.
 - d. A psychiatrist.
 - e. A primary care physician or hospitalist.
4. That full pulmonary function testing be conducted including lung volumes and DLCO with particular attention paid to the flow volume loops.
5. That there be a review of his echocardiogram specifically looking for Takotsubo's cardiomyopathy. That his cardiac catheterization film be reviewed.
6. That a review of his chest CT be performed.
7. That a cosyntropin stimulation test, thyroid function tests, ferritin, iron binding capacity and an evaluation of his hepatitis status be considered.
8. That further evaluation and testing would be at the discretion of the evaluating physicians.

9. That there be immediate improvement in his confinement conditions at the very least, in accordance with Standard Minimum Rules of the Treatment of Prisoners (Adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Geneva in 1955, and approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolutions 663 C (XXIV) of 31 July, 1957 and 2076 (LXII) of 13 May, 1977).

10. That a full investigation be conducted by independent third parties specifically human rights specialists to determine if the Taipei Prison authorities are in compliance with international standards of incarceration and if CSB's human rights are being violated.

11. That the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission convene a hearing to determine the facts and extent of human rights violations concerning the incarceration of CSB.

12. That former President CHEN SHUI-BIAN be released from confinement on medical parole based on the above assessments, conclusion and recommendations and on compelling humanitarian grounds.

Submitted by:

JOSEPH LIN, PH.D.

KEN YONEDA, M.D.

CHARLES WHITCOMB, M.D.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL JOSHUA SAMS, UNITED STATES MARINE SCOUT SNIPER

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I am speaking in honor of United States Marine Scout Sniper CPL Joshua Sams of Wilmington, Ohio. On January 12th, 2012 while on foot patrol, CPL Sams almost lost his life in an improvised explosive device, IED, explosion in Helmand Province in Deploy Marsh Garsha, Afghanistan. Losing both his legs and suffering numerous other injuries, Joshua with only his will to live has come back from the brink of death. His father Peter, who served in the Air Force in the Vietnam War and Joshua's lovely wife Lindsey are the unsung heroes of the family. They have stood by Joshua throughout his recovery. Joshua has always been a winner in the game of life. Whether a star quarterback who led his team towards a championship in high school in Ohio, or on the battlefield of honor, his character, courage, and leadership as a Marine and Scout Sniper have inspired all who have been around him. On this day, in tribute to CPL Sams, remember why we live in such a great Nation, and remember men like Joshua and their fine families who provide the bed of Freedom for all of us. Remember the fallen heroes and their families. I ask that this poem penned in honor of Joshua and his family by Albert Caswell be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

GOING DEEPPPPPPP!

Going . . .

Going Deepppppp!

All In The Game of Life . . .

What will our hearts so seek?

And so strive for to achieve!

Will we fall short?

Or will we go deep?

All in our hearts of honor,

what promises will we so keep!

All in our souls,

to so strive for and so very deep!